

On December 9th, we understand that the Appropriations Committee will consider reducing the money that supports organizations such as ours that provide services to the Hispanic community. We are writing to ask that you do not take this drastic action.

Our agency, the Spanish Community of Wallingford, has been providing services to the Hispanic community for over twenty-five years. We operate on a shoestring budget, and almost all of our funds are derived from state grants. Our entire budget is dedicated to providing services to our clients, and eliminating even a small portion of these grants will have a devastating impact on our agency and, therefore, our clients.

We exist to assist people who have come to the United States to share in the amazing opportunities available in this country. They have come here to work hard, raise their families, give back to the country that has welcomed them and fully participate in American society. But they have need of some temporary assistance to help them overcome the language barrier. That is our purpose.

We help them help themselves, primarily by directing them to the social services available to everyone and by assisting them in communicating with their doctors, lawyers, teachers and other providers of services all of us must access. Almost as important, we provide them with a place where they can build confidence in their ability to navigate the complex American society in which we all live.

As you perform the unenviable task of finding ways to reduce the state budget deficit, we respectfully ask you to please put yourself in their place just for a moment. Our community is full of people with unbelievable potential, but to unleash that potential, they need a temporary hand from we who have preceded them. And we in turn need you, the leaders of the State of Connecticut, to help us help them. Please let us continue this invaluable work.

Very truly yours,

Maria Campos-Harlow
Patricia Cymbala
Stephen Knight
Trish Nunez-Odermatt
Dawn Sarro
Cesar Ruiz
Sara Robles